

REMARKS

Election/Restrictions

Applicant reaffirms the provisional election made by Applicant's Attorney of Record, John Manion, on 24 March 2005. Claims 1, 2, and 5-32 are to be prosecuted and claims 3-5 are withdrawn from consideration.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 2, 5, 12, 13, and 20-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Demler, U.S. Pat. No. 3,378,282. Independent claims 12, and 20 have been amended to state that the "first and second couplings have an outer diameter that is substantially equivalent to an outer diameter of said conduit." Independent claim 1 and the dependent claims from claim 1 have been cancelled. Claim 12 has been further amended to state that the first and second couplings are of one-piece construction with the valve body. Demler does not show such a structure. The present invention provides for a valve that does not have to be assembled by a plumber when the valve is being installed for use in a plumbing or sprinkler system. Because the diameters of the conduit and the couplings are the same, the flow of fluid through the conduit and the valve is not impeded by a sleeve, such as shown in Demler, being inserted within the conduit and coupling. Furthermore, since a sleeve does need to be inserted into the conduit and/or coupling, assembly and installation is simplified. There is no need for soldering or welding of the valve, which also increases the speed and efficiency of the installation process. Demler and the other cited prior art do not show such an arrangement, and allowance of claims 12, and 20 is respectfully requested. Claims 13 and 21-22 depend from claims 12, and 20, and allowance is also requested. Claim 2 has been cancelled.

Claim Rejections 35 U.S.C § 103

Claims 6, 7, 14, 15, 23 and 24 were rejected as being unpatentable over Demler in view of Woods, U.S. Pat. No. 6,467,752. Claims 14, 15, 23, and 24 depend from claims 12, and 20, which as currently presented are believed to contain patentable. Accordingly claims 14, 15, 23, and 24 also are believed to contain patentable subject matter, and allowance is requested. Claims 6 and 7 have been cancelled.

Furthermore, Woods does not show a top entry valve as shown and described in the present invention. The purpose of a top entry valve is to provide access within the valve and conduit

without needing to disassemble the valve. Compared to prior valves, this arrangement simplifies possible maintenance needed on the plumbing system by also not having to disassemble the conduits from the valve to access the interior of the valve. Neither Demler nor Woods shows this arrangement, and the combination of the patents does not suggest this arrangement either. The combination of an easily installed valve that is easily accessible through a top entry valve is novel over the prior art, and allowance is requested.

Claims 8, 9, 16, 17, 25, and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being rejected over Demler in view of Cannon. Claims 8, 9, 16, 17, 25, and 26 have been cancelled. Claims 16 and 25 have been incorporated into claims 12, and 20, respectively. Cannon discusses a flexible hose that is used for vehicle engines and are not used in for sprinkler systems. As one having ordinary skill in the art would know, a flexible hose is not practical for the high force or pressure that can be exerted when a sprinkler system is employed. For instance, in a vehicle, when there is high or extreme pressure flowing through the motor or engine, as when a radiator overheats, flexible hoses as described in Cannon tend to burst or come unattached. It would not have been obvious to combine Cannon with Demler to arrive at the present invention, as there is no suggestion or teaching in Cannon or Demler that a flexible hose could be used in the present invention.

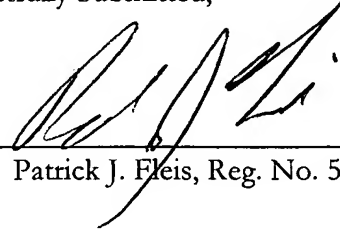
Also, Cannon describes a hose that is not dependent on clamping or crimping, which would damage the flexible hose (see Col. 4, lines 40-49). However, the present invention claims and recites a valve used in connection with a malleable sleeve designed for crimping, which is directly opposite of what is taught in Cannon, since Cannon does not teach a malleable sleeve. As such, it is believed that claims 12, and 20, as currently presented, contain patentable subject matter not shown in the prior art, individually or in combination. Allowance is requested.

Claims 10, 11, 18, 19 and 27-32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Demler in view of Pearl, II et al., U.S. Pat. No. 5,333,467. Claims 18, 19 and 27-29 depend from claims 1, 12, and 20, which as currently presented are believed to contain patentable. Claims 18 and 20 have been amended to further define the patentable subject matter of the claims. Accordingly claims 18, 19 and 27-29 also are believed to contain patentable subject matter, and allowance is requested. Claims 10, 11, and 30-32 have been cancelled.

Applicant believes the claims as currently presented contain patentable subject matter. No new matter has been added in this amendment. Amended claims 12, 18, 20 and 28 and original claims 13-15, 19, 21-24, 27, and 29 are respectfully requested to be passed to allowance.

Respectfully Submitted,

By



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